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SUBJECT: TURKEY: POL-MIL ROUND-UP, JULY 2005

REFERENCE: A) ANKARA 3892, B) 2004 ANKARA 6000

(Note: This is the second in a regular series of unclassified reports on significant Turkish defense and

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national security issues in the press and other open sources. End note)

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Debates on Cross-Border Operations Against the PKK

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1. Throughout the month, government and military officials publicly accused each other, Turkey's neighbors, the EU and the US of inaction to respond to the PKK terrorist threat. However, they were unified in emphasizing that Turkey reserved the right to pursue the PKK into Iraq if necessary. Turkish Land Forces Commander General Yasar Buyukanit made the opening salvo when, on July 1, he accused Iraq's neighboring countries and EU members of supporting the PKK. Deputy Chief of the Turkish General Staff (TGS) General Ilker Basbug, in a July 19 press conference, said that a cross-border operation is "one of a number of options - in fact it's the last option" to address the PKK threat emanating from northern Iraq.

2. PM Erdogan repeatedly and publicly made known his unhappiness with US inaction against the PKK in northern Iraq. The center right Hurriyet newspaper, on July 7, quoted him as calling on the US to take action against the PKK in northern Iraq to improve Turkish-American relations. On July 13 Erdogan said in a TV interview that, given the lack of support from the US and EU countries -- and accusing the US of not taken measures against infiltration of the PKK into Turkey-- Turkey might launch cross-border operations against the PKK. On July 27 Erdogan in an interview with 'The Times' of London said he has not seen a US effort against the PKK, and Turkey's patience had its limits. Taking a more measured tone, MFA Spokesman Namik Tan concurred that "Turkey will take the necessary measures against the PKK whenever it becomes necessary," but added that "we have no problem with the US in the fight against the PKK". Turkish newspapers quoted Iraqi Interior Minister Al Zubaida as saying the Iraqi security forces lacked the capacity to drive the PKK out of Iraq.

Turkey's Security Relations with Other Countries

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3. Iraq: Turkish press continues reporting on government efforts against the PKK terrorist organization. The center-right Hurriyet reported that in the last few months 700 PKK militants infiltrated into Turkey from northern Iraq. Interior Ministers of the countries neighboring Iraq issued a communique from their second round of meetings of July 19 in Istanbul condemning terrorism and expressing their full solidarity with the Iraqi government. After the meeting, Turkey's Minister of Interior Abdulkadir Aksu stated that Iraq's neighbors agreed to sign a regional security protocol.

4. Sudan: The Turkish centrist Milliyet reported that Turkish National Police provided counter-narcotics, counter-terrorism, organized crime and homeland security training to 4 Sudanese policemen in 2004 and to 45 in 2005.

5. Pakistan: Defense Minister Vecdi Gonul said after meeting with his Pakistani counterpart on July 28 that Turkey is considering the purchase of tanks from Pakistan following Turkey's 2004 cancellation of a main battle tank tender.

6. Kuwait: Turkey signed a Security Cooperation Agreement with Kuwait. According to Turkish Interior Minister Abdulkadir Aksu, the agreement was a broader form of an earlier protocol to increase the countries' joint efforts to

fight drug trafficking, terrorism and organised crime.

17. Azerbaijan: Turkish Defense Minister Vecdi Gonul met with his Azerbaijani counterpart in Baku on July 20 to discuss military cooperation within the NATO framework.

#### Defense Industry Activity

18. SSM released the names of companies that received the RFI (Request for Information) for a reconnaissance and surveillance satellite system; Lockheed Martin was among the competitors.

19. SSM announced a new tender for the purchase of 142,292 anti-Nuclear/Biological/Chemical suits for the Turkish Armed Forces.

10. Raytheon Systems Company ordered thermal weapons glass worth USD 3.34 million from Aselsan, which will deliver the order in 2006.

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